

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SAUDI PRINCE REASSURES THE US

SAUDI PRINCE FAHD HAS REASSURED AMBASSADOR THACHER THAT KING FAISAL'S RECENT REMARKS ON NBC AND IN NEWSWEEK WERE NOT AIMED AT WEAKENING TIES WITH THE US, BUT AT DEFLATING SOME OF THE GREAT PRESSURES GENERATED BY ARAB RADICALS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND ASSISTING PRESIDENT NIXON IN EXPLAINING TO CONGRESS THE REALITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. THE PRINCE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES IN SAUDI OIL POLICY AND ASKED THAT THE US RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR ITS LEADERSHIP IN BRINGING ABOUT RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. (SECRET) JIDDA 4067, 9/20.

2. IRAN REACTS TO INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS

ALLEGED CRITICAL REMARKS BY INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH ABOUT THE IRANIAN MILITARY BUILD-UP HAS TRIGGERED A VERY STRONG IRANIAN REACTION CHARGING INDIA WITH PROVOCATIVE AND HYPOCRITICAL POLICIES AND JUSTIFYING IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. EMBASSY TEHRAN BELIEVES THE OVERLY SENSITIVE IRANIAN REACTION COULD

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GERED A VERY STRONG IRANIAN REACTION CHARGING INDIA WITH PROVOCATIVE AND HYPOCRITICAL POLICIES AND JUSTIFYING IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. EMBASSY TEHRAN BELIEVES THE OVERLY SENSITIVE IRANIAN REACTION COULD

CAUSE A SERIOUS SETBACK TO INDIAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS.

(SECRET) TEHRAN 6706, 9/20.

3. SYRIAN PRESIDENT ON FATAH-SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

IN AN INTERVIEW SEPTEMBER 19 WITH BEIRUT DAILY AN NAHAR, SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD RULED OUT ANY INTERVENTION ON HIS PART TO SMOOTH OVER THE CURRENT SQUABBLE BETWEEN FATAH AND SA'IQA. HE SAID BOTH ORGANIZATIONS "MUST RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK." AT THE SAME TIME, ASSAD DEFENDED SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH JORDAN ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS INDISPENSABLE IN THE EVENT OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES WITH ISRAEL. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BEIRUT 11167, 9/20.

4. HUSSEIN PLANNING BOURGUIBA'S DEMISE?

HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR., INFORMED AMBASSADOR SEELYE ON SEPTEMBER 19 THAT THE TUNISIANS POSSESS A REPORT THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS SUBORDINATES TO ARRANGE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. BOURGUIBA, JR., SAID THAT YASIR ARAFAT PERSONALLY "CONFIRMED" THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT TO BOURGUIBA IN TRIPOLI. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY TUNIS, THE REPORT SEEMS FAR-FETCHED BUT APPEARS TO HAVE GENERATED GENUINE TUNISIAN CONCERN. (SECRET) TUNIS 5486, 9/20 (EXDIS).

5. TUNISIAN-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: ON VERGE OF BREAK

MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS INFORMED AMBASSADOR MURPHY SEPTEMBER 19 THAT BOURGUIBA HAD TOLD OULD DADDAH DURING THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO. THE ALLEGED CAUSE IS KING HASSAN'S UNRESPONSIVENESS TO SECRET

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BOURGUIBA'S DEMAND THAT HE MOVE TO CUT OFF RUMORS BEING SPREAD BY THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT ALLEGING THAT MME. BOURGUIBA AND TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI ARE TAKING CONTRACT RAKEOFFS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NOUAKCHOTT 851, 9/20.

6. LIBYAN OIL SITUATION IN TEMPORARY STALEMATE

EMBASSY TRIPOLI REPORTS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF OIL NATIONALIZATION IN LIBYA IS PRESENTLY IN A STALEMATE FAVORING THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES, WHICH ARE SHIPPING CRUDE AT A RAPID CLIP PENDING THE NEXT DEMAND FOR A NATIONAL OIL COMPANY LOADING. THIS SITUATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO GO ON MUCH LONGER. THE MAIN REASON

IT EXISTS AT ALL IS THAT THE LARG IS STILL SCRAM-
BLING TO FIND MEANS TO OPERATE THE MAJORS' FIELDS
AND PORTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TRIPOLI 1219, 9/20.

7. HARMEL VIEWS ON US-EC RELATIONS

DISCUSSING THE RECENT COPENHAGEN EC MEETING, BELGIAN
MINISTER OF STATE HARMEL TOLD AMBASSADOR STRAUZS-HUPE
IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT EUROPEAN AGREEMENT COULD BE
ACHIEVED ON A JOINT STATEMENT THAT WOULD MERGE THE
PRINCIPLES AND GOALS OF THE US-EC RELATIONSHIP AND
THOSE OF NATO. HARMEL SAID THE US SHOULD BE CONTENT
WITH TWO SEPARATE DOCUMENTS. HE STATED FURTHER THAT
THE IMPLICIT POLITICAL PURPOSE OF THE EC IS TO KEEP
THE FRG WITHIN THE ORBIT OF THE WEST, A MATTER OF
TRANSCENDENT IMPORTANCE, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT TEMPORAR-
ILY COMPLICATE SOME ASPECTS OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.
(CONFIDENTIAL) BRUSSELS 5350, 9/20 (LIMDIS). RUSH

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